

William Charles Cole Claiborne to Andrew Jackson, November 4, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

GOVERNOR CLAIBORNE TO JACKSON.

New Orleans, November 4, 1814.

. . . . So far as regards the advised Co-operation on the part of the navy in the defence of the *Balize and South West Pass* , I have been informed by Captain Patterson, that *it* cannot be given, without abandoning the lakes, and leaving the Communication between New Orleans and Mobile wholly insecure. Captain Patterson complains much of the want of Sailors. The Brig Etna has not more, than 26 persons on board: The Ship Louisiana is wholly without sailors, nor can they be obtained; 6 Gun Boats and one schooner is Captain Patterson's effective force; he was asked by me, whether he had *Authority* to purchase Vessels, and answered, *it* had been expressly denied him; but that nevertheless *in case of exigency he would purchase* ; but thought it useless, as additional Sailors could not now be procured on this station. Captain Patterson Seems disposed to Cooperate with promptitude and Zeal in such manner, *as his means* permit; but is of Opinion, that *these* will not enable him for the Present, to do more, than to guard the lakes, and keep the communication free between this city and Mobile.

In a late Letter, I advised you of the Publication of your address to the free-men of Colour. Its effects are beginning to be Manifested; a Mr. Bourgeois, a Frenchman by Birth, but who has resided here for several Years and supports a good Character, came to me to day and said he could raise a Company of 100 men, provided, he could receive the Commission of Captain. I requested him to raise the same without delay, and promised to recommend him to the General commanding the District, who alone had the power of Commissioning him.

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There are I am told, two other Gentlemen who desire to raise companies; but they have not yet named the subject to me